up so far under the scheme; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to completely mop up black money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes,Sir.

(b) National Housing Bank (NHB) has launched on October 1, 1991, a Scheme to mop up Black Money known as "National Housing Bank (Voluntary Deposits) Scheme, 1991".

In terms of the scheme notified, a person may deposit an amount, minimum being Rs. 10,000/-thereafter in multiples of Rs. 1,000/-, in any of the designated branches of the 9 banks appointed for the purpose. 40% of the amount so deposited is to be credited to a Special Fund constituted for the purpose. The fund shall be utilised for the purpose of financing slum clearance and low cost housing for the poor. The balance 60% of the deposit may be withdrawn by the depositor without any lock-in period by submitting an application in the prescribed format. The 60% amount is payable to the depositor by way of a crossed account payee cheque. The designated branches shall also issue a certificate of withdrawal in respect of the 60% amount withdrawn by the depositor. The depositor is extended certain immunities under the Voluntary Deposits (Immunities & Exemptions) Act, 1991. In terms of the said Act, the person making deposit under the scheme shall not be required to disclose the nature and source of the deposit; no enquiry or investigation shall be initiated against the depositor merely because he had made the deposit; and the fact that the deposit has been made by him shall also be inadmissible as evidence in any proceedings relating to any offence except under the Indian Penal Code, Narcotics Protection and Psychotropic Substances Act, Terrorist & Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act and Prevention of Corruption Act.

(c) to (e). NHB has reported that as per reports submitted by various banks, the amount received under the Scheme till 17 th November, 1991 stood at Rs. 19. 57 crores.

(f) Government is seized of the problem of existence of black money in the economy and takes various steps from time to time to overcome it.

Setting up of Commodity Management Board

426. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are examining a proposal to set up Commodity Management Board for export and import of agricultural commodities;

(b) if so, whether a final decision has been taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the date by which the Commodity Management Board is likely to be set up and the details of its proposed set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). There is such a proposal under consideration in the Ministry of Agriculture.

[*Translation*]

One-Rank-One-Pension Scheme

427. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the High Power Committee set up to go into the one-rank one-pension scheme has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main observations and recommendations of the Committee and the decision taken by the government thereon; and

(c) if not, the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c). The High Level Empowered Committee constituted by the Government to review the difficulties faced by pre 1.1.1986 Defence Pensioners and, *inter alia*, examine the demand for One Rank One Pension is required to submit its report by 31.12.1991.

[*English*]

Defence Equipment Supplies from USSR

428. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether difficulties have arisen in procuring defence supplies including spares from the Soviet Union as per Indo Soviet Protocols after the recent changes in the Soviet Union; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure free flow of the supplies and spares so that our Defence capability is not affected?

THE MINISTER DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). The political and economic changes taking place in the Soviet Union could create dislocations in our bilateral Defence Cooperation arrangements. Govt. are, however, maintaining continuous contact with the Soviet authorities to ensure a smooth flow of supplies. Simultaneously, Government are also pursuing measures to meet essential requirements from other sources abroad and through indigenous production facilities.

Redemption of Gold Pledged with Bank of England

429. SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE:
SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan taken by the Reserve Bank of India against gold pledged with the Bank of England during July, 1991;

(b) the amount repaid so far to redeem the pledged gold;

(c) the steps, if any, taken by the Union Government to bring back the pledged gold; and

(d) the time by which the pledged gold will be brought back?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Loans taken against the collateral of gold transferred to Bank of England, London were equivalent to Rs. 1037 crores.

(b) The loans taken by pledging gold as indicated in (a) above have been fully discharged.

(c) and (d). The Reserve Bank of India has been requested to chalk out a plan to bring all the gold back and to initiate a process of bringing back gold in instalments taking into account the level of currency reserves and security considerations for such transactions.